

(a) whether an alleged case of fraud relating to income tax refund has been detected in the Reserve Bank of India, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details in this regard including the amount of loss suffered by the Government as a result thereof;

(c) whether some Government/RBI officials have been found to be involved in the matter; and

(d) if so, the action taken against them and also for preventing such alleged frauds in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (d). In January, 1992, a case of fraud relating to income-tax refunds came to the notice of the Reserve Bank of India and the Income-tax Department. A check by the Income-tax Department showed that some refund voucher books were missing. An F.I.R. has been filed with the police who are investigating the case.

The enquiries made so far show that refunds amounting to about Rs. 6 lakhs have been fraudulently encashed.

The Police have arrested some persons including some officials of the Reserve Bank of India and one official of the Income-tax Department who has been suspended. Investigations are still in progress.

Very recently, in December, 1991, instructions had been issued emphasising the need for safe custody and security of refund order books with a view to prevent frauds in encashment of refunds.

Import of cotton

861. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:

SHRI B.L. SHARMA PREM:
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:
DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEA:
SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have decided to import several lakhs of cotton bales under open General Licence Scheme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of agencies through which these bales are likely to be imported;

(c) the reasons for importing these bales;

(d) the amount of foreign exchange likely to be incurred thereon; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to produce more cotton for domestic and export purposes with a view to save foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(e) A centrally sponsored Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) is being implemented in 11 cotton growing States under which assistance is being provided for production and distribution of certified seeds, Integrated Best Management, farmers training programme, etc.

Intrusion by Pakistani Marine Security Force

862. SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY:
Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state: